

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:277

ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004

INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS

Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan; Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assured the Supreme Court regarding continuance of the process of inter-linking of rivers in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received any report from the technical committee set up for the purpose;
- (d) if so, the details of recommendations made by the committee;
- (e) the estimated cost of rivers-linking project and the allocation made during 2004-05; and
- (f) the target fixed for completion of the project?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 277 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2004 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING INTER-LINKING OF RIVERS.

(a) & (b) Ministry of Water Resources, (MOWR) has filed an affidavit on 26th October, 2004 submitting progress report on (i) preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) in respect of Ken-Betwa & Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal links (ii) placing Feasibility Reports (FR) on Website and (iii) follow up on the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government regarding inter-linking river programme.

(c) & (d) The report of the Consensus Group headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) constituted in June, 2002 to discuss with the States, the issues of arriving at a consensus regarding sharing of surplus waters and the preparation of DPR has been received in respect of Ken-Betwa and Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal links. Consensus Group has held a number of meetings in respect of Ken-Betwa link and Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal link and the outstanding technical issues/reservations were discussed with the States and were clarified. As the outstanding technical issue/reservations were discussed with the States and clarified, the consensus group in its report has recommended for requesting the concerned State Governments for conveying their consent for taking up preparation of DPRs for these links.

(e) & (f): The tentative estimated cost of the inter-linking of rivers (ILR) Programme is approximately Rs. 5,60,000 crore. Necessary budget is allocated for inter-linking of rivers under grants in-aid to National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as per the requirement. Grants in Aid to NWDA for 2004-2005 is Rs. 35 crore. Time required to complete construction of links depends upon how fast consensus and cooperation from States is available for the links.